

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3168
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HELSINKI 2892

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, PORG, UNGA
SUBJECT: PRE-33RD UNGA CONSULTATIONS: NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES DISCUS-
SED DURING PETREE VISIT

REF: HELSINKI 2788,

1. SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE REVIEWS CONSULTATIONS WITH MFA
ON NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES HELD BY USUN MINISTER-
COUNSELOR PETREE ON HIS RECENT VISIT (REFTEL REPORTED
THE DISCUSSIONS ON GENERAL AND REGIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES).
DISCUSSED DURING THE CONSULTATIONS WERE INTER ALIA THE UN
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW), THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR
COMMODITIES AND THE COMMON FUND, THE "LIKE-MINDED" GROUP
MEETING IN HELSINKI AND THE USSR ROLE IN NORTH/SOUTH
ECONOMIC RELATIONS. PETREE GAVE USG VIEWS ON THESE SUBJECTS;
THIS MESSAGE FOCUSES PRIMARILY ON MFA RESPONSES TO THOSE
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VIEWS. THIS REPORT WAS NOT SEEN BY MR. PETREE PRIOR
TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM HELSINKI. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA UNDER SECRETARY PAUL GUSTAFSSON AND AMBASSADOR
WILHELM BREITENSTEIN, MFA'S DIRECTOR OF THE DEVELOP-
MENT COOPERATION DEPARTMENT, LED THE FINNISH SIDE DURING
THE CONSULTATIONS. GUSTAFSSON MADE A FEW INTRODUCTORY

REMARKS AND PROCEEDED INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE UN COW. GUSTAFSSON'S QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON THE JAZAIRY LETTER WITH REFERENCE TO THE UPCOMING SEPTEMBER MEETING. PETREE EXPLAINED THE US POSITION IN TERMS OF THE YOUNG FORMULA AND GAVE HIM A COPY OF THE US RESPONSE TO JAZAIRY. GUSTAFSSON SAID THAT AT THE RECENT MEETING OF THE NONALIGNED AT BELGRADE A CONSENSUS EMERGED THAT ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD BE REPRESENTED AT THE COW AT A HIGHER LEVEL. HE POINTED OUT ALSO THAT THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES HAD BEEN SEVERELY ATTACKED AT BELGRADE AND PUT ON NOTICE THAT THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WILL DEMAND NEGOTIATIONS IN THE COW. GUSTAFSSON ASKED SPECIFICALLY IF THE US IS STILL HOLDING THE POSITION MANY OF THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES HAD IN MAY, I.E., NO NEGOTIATIONS, NO FINAL PAPER AND NO SUMMING UP BY THE CHAIRMAN. PETREE REPLIED THAT IN THE SECOND SESSION WE WILL NOT FIGHT SUMMING UP PAPERS AND COULD ACCEPT THE MAY DOCUMENT WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS; THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO MOVE ON CONSTRUCTIVELY AND TO AVOID HAVING THE COW BEING SIMPLY ANOTHER PROPAGANDA FORUM IN WHICH THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES CAN DODGE THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS. AMBASSADOR BREITENSTEIN INDICATED THE FINNS ARE WILLING TO WORK ON THE BASIS OF THE JAZAIRY PAPER AND NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF LOOKING AT THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE IN A LONGER TERM PERSPECTIVE.

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3. WITH REGARD TO THE US STANCE EMPHASIZED BY PETREE, THAT THE COW SHOULD NOT BE A NEGOTIATING FORUM, BREITENSTEIN SAID THAT SOME AREAS COULD BE CONCEDED TO THE G-77 WITHOUT TURNING THE COW INTO A NEGOTIATING BODY. HE SAID WE SHOULD GET AWAY FROM SEMANTICS AND NOT SIMPLY SAY WE DO NOT WANT TO NEGOTIATE. HE SAID WE SHOULD BE MORE NUANCED AND SHOULD DIFFERENTIATE AMONG DIFFERENT SUBJECTS. CERTAIN TOPICS, SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR TREATMENT IN THE COW BUT OTHER TOPICS, SUCH AS INDUSTRIALIZATION AND RESOURCE TRANSFER QUESTION, MAY LEND THEMSELVES TO SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE COW. PETREE SAID THE COW PROCESS SHOULD BE MORE THAN SIMPLY AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BUT AGAIN UNDERSCORED THE US POSITION THAT THE COW CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS A FORUM FOR COMMITTING GOVERNMENTS TO DECISIONS. THE ISSUES ARE SIMPLY TOO DIFFICULT AND IMPORTANT. THE FINNS COMMENTED THAT THE COW SHOULD SERVE AS AN IMPETUS TO NEGOTIATIONS AND CANNOT FILL THAT ROLE IF IT IS ONLY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 HELSINKI 2892

ON OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. PETREE SAID WHAT WE ARE
LOOKING FOR IN THE COW IS IDENTIFICATION OF WHAT IS
POSSIBLE AND ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR DOING
SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE AREAS IDENTIFIED. IT SHOULD FOCUS
ON THOSE CHANGES IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION
THAT ARE CURRENTLY FEASIBLE. GUSTAFSSON ASKED
WHETHER IN THE US VIEW THE COW CAN PLAY A ROLE IN
PROVIDING IMPETUS TO THE COMMON FUND AND TO
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (IDS). PETREE
REPLIED THAT THE US IS NOT MUCH INTERESTED IN THE IDS
AND BELIEVES THE UNGA RATHER THAN COW HAS AN APPROPRIATE
ROLE WITH RESPECT TO THE IDS. CONCERNING A REPLACE-
MENT FOR JAZAIRY, THE FINNS INDICATED THEY FAVOR
STOLTENBERG OF NORWAY BUT BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE TO LAY
LOW ON THIS ISSUE TO AVOID UPSETTING THE G-77.

4. WITH RESPECT TO THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR
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COMMODITIES (IPC), GUSTAFSSON ASKED IF THE US HAS

NOTED A WEAKENING OF WILLINGNESS AMONG THE THIRD WORLD TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE. PETREE SAID WE ARE SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL ON THE POSSIBILITY OF REALISTIC DISCUSSIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD ON THIS SUBJECT. HOWEVER, THIS IS IN PART AN EDUCATIONAL PROCESS, AND THE US IS WILLING TO CONTINUE TALKING. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE US BELIEVES THAT POSSIBILITIES ARE POOR FOR AGREEMENT. MR. PASI RUTANEN, THE FINNISH SPECIALIST ON IPC QUESTIONS, SAID THAT IT APPEARS THE US IS NOW ALONE WITH THE OLD GROUP B POSITIONS ON THE IPC WHEREAS THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP B HAVE MOVED. HE SAID FINLAND NOW ACCEPTS THE PRINCIPLE OF DIRECT CONTRIBUTION; THE ONLY QUESTION IS ABOUT THE AMOUNT. HE SAID FINLAND ALSO ACCEPTS THAT THE FUND ALSO HAS A FINANCING ROLE FOR OTHER PURPOSES, E.G., A SECOND WINDOW. HE SAID FINLAND'S CHANGE OF POSITION ON THESE ISSUES RESULTS PARTLY BECAUSE DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS AND SECOND WINDOW FINANCING ARE ACCEPTABLE TO FINLAND ON PRACTICAL GROUNDS OF USEFULNESS AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL FACT THAT SUCH CONCEPTS ARE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD. WITHOUT DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS THERE WOULD BE NO COMMON FUND AND CONSEQUENTLY A BLEAK FUTURE FOR THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. GUSTAFSSON SAID THAT THE RECONVENING OF THE COMMON FUND TALKS DEPENDS PRIMARILY ON US ATTITUDES. PETREE RESPONDED THAT THE RESUMPTION WOULD DEPEND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REASONABLE BASIS FOR CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS.

5. BECAUSE CONSULTATIONS ON NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE FINNS IN PART TO PROVIDE BACKGROUND TO A MEETING OF THE "LIKE-MINDED" GROUP, PETREE ASKED THE FINNS ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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GROUP. GUSTAFSSON REPLIED THAT THE GROUP CONSISTS OF A NUMBER OF RELATIVELY SMALL INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES (THE NORDICS AND BENELUX COUNTRIES) AND GREAT BRITAIN. THE COMMON FEATURE OF THE GROUP IS THE MEMBERS' HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND THEIR RECOGNITION OF INTERDEPENDENCE. HE SAID THE GROUP IS AN OLD ONE THAT HAS BEEN MEETING IN NEW YORK FOR SOME YEARS. IT IS A VERY LOOSE GROUP OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE A NUMBER OF SIMILAR POLICIES AND APPROACHES IN THE AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT AID, THE BASIC NEEDS POLICY AND THE NEED FOR SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE THIRD WORLD.

6. PETREE ASKED THE FINNS ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE SOVIET UNION IN NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES, OUT-

LINING THE US POSITION THAT THE USSR IS DANGEROUSLY
ISOLATED FROM REAL-WORLD ECONOMICS, BUT THAT IT IS
NOT CLEAR WHAT THE SOVIET ROLE MIGHT BE. GUSTAFSSON
EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE VIEW. HE
OBSERVED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN EMBARRASSED AT THE
LAST COW MEETING IN NEW YORK BY REACTIONS TO THE
SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH. GUSTAFSSON SAID THAT
RECENTLY A GROUP OF WEST GERMANS LED BY WILLY
BRANDT HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES AND HAD BEEN FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH THE
KNOWLEDGE AND INTEREST OF MANY EASTERN
EUROPEAN OFFICIALS CONCERNING NORTH/SOUTH QUESTIONS.
HOWEVER, THE WEST GERMANS FELT THAT IT WOULD
STILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN
NORTH/SOUTH COOPERATION COULD BECOME SIGNIFICANT.

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